



**CITY OF WEST RICHLAND**  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
3100 BELMONT BLVD, SUITE 102  
WEST RICHLAND, WA 99353

February 6, 2020

The City of West Richland previously provided notice to residents that it has been actively investigating elevated groundwater in the City's storm drainage facilities in the general area around your neighborhood. The drainage problem area (DPA) is roughly bounded by Polaris Way on the south, S. 54th Ave on the east, Collins Road on the north, and Onyx Avenue on the west. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update since the City's March 7, 2019 letter.

On October 31, 2018, the City hired a hydrogeologist / geotechnical consultant, GeoEngineers, to assist with the City's investigation to determine the hydrogeologic and geotechnical conditions that are potentially causing and/or contributing to the observed elevated groundwater levels and drainage problems. The Phase 1 investigation consisted primarily of a review of existing information. Results of the Phase 1 investigation dated February 14, 2019, were posted on the City's website.

On April 16, 2019, City Council authorized a Phase 2 investigation to be focused on field work intended to fill gaps in the project dataset that limit the understanding of the observed drainage problem and its causes.

On January 14, 2020, the City received the Phase 2 Hydrogeologic Investigation Report from GeoEngineers. The Phase 2 investigation built on and refined the results of the Phase 1 investigation and as such the Phase 2 report replaces and supersedes the Phase 1 report. The Phase 2 report has been posted on the City's website, [www.westrichland.org](http://www.westrichland.org).

The Phase 2 investigation concluded that the elevated groundwater in DPA is due to a complex sedimentary strata sequence of fine-grained sediment, caliche, cemented gravel and a low permeability Ringgold Formation clay overlying basalt combined with seepage from the over irrigating of residential lawns and landscaping. The sedimentary deposits contain moderate to abundant cementation. This cementation forms horizontal as well as vertical boundaries limiting the downward infiltration of water and supporting development of elevated groundwater levels in the DPA.

While the City continues to monitor groundwater elevations and the use of irrigation water within the DPA, the City is again asking for residents within the DPA to voluntarily reduce their 2020 irrigation water use by a minimum of 25% to reduce the elevated groundwater impact to the City's storm drainage facilities and to your neighbors. Residents within the DPA collectively reduced their 2019 irrigation water use by 8% from 2018 volumes. In response to residents requesting additional information on how to reduce their irrigation water usage, the City's consultant is drafting an informational flyer for residents on tips for reducing irrigation watering use, soil amendment methods to contain water within the lawn's root zone, and xeriscaping. This information is expected to be posted on the City's website by the first week of April 2020.

Updates on the elevated groundwater issue will be posted on the City's website, [www.westrichland.org](http://www.westrichland.org) as it is received. Please direct any questions you may have to the following email address, [rslade@westrichland.org](mailto:rslade@westrichland.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roscoe Slade", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Roscoe Slade, Public Works Director  
City of West Richland